What is claimed is:

1. A manually operated pull-station for activating an alarm system, the pull-station comprising:

a housing;

a manually actuated lever movable between armed and activated positions; and

a camera mounted in said housing.

2. The pull-station according to claim 1, wherein said camera is a video camera.

3. The pull-station according to claim 1, further comprising a local memory device for storage of image data from said camera.

4. The pull-station according to claim 3, wherein said memory device includes removable, memory media.

5. The pull-station according to claim 4, wherein said memory media is a compact disc.

6. The pull-station according to claim 4, wherein said memory media is a floppy disc.

7. The pull-station according to claim 3, further comprising a data output port for communicating with a peripheral communication device, wherein the peripheral communication device and said pull-station communicate with each other to transfer at least one of image data and commands between said pull-station and the peripheral device.

8. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein the peripheral communication device is a laptop computer.

9. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein the peripheral communication device is a Personal Digital Assistant.

10. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein the peripheral communication device is a desktop computer.

11. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein said pull-station communicates with the peripheral device via an infrared signal.

12. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein said pull-station communicates with the peripheral device via direct wire connection.

13. The pull-station according to claim 7, wherein said pull-station communicates with the peripheral device using wireless RF frequency.

14. The pull-station according to claim 2, wherein said camera has a lens that produces a field of view at least three feet wide at a distance three feet from said lens.

15. The pull-station according to claim 14, wherein the field of view of said lens is adjustable.

16. The pull-station according to claim 14, wherein said camera has a lens located at a distance above said lever such that when said pull-station is actuated, said lever does not obstruct the field of view of said camera.

17. A manually operated pull-station for activating an alarm system, the pull station comprising:

a housing;

means for actuating the pull station between an armed state and an activated state; and

means located in said housing for capturing an image occurring outside of said housing.

18. The pull station according to claim 17, wherein said means for capturing an image captures an image when said actuating means is actuated to the activated state.

19. The pull station according to claim 17, further comprising means for storing the captured image data.

20. A method of handling data in a pull station for activating an alarm system comprising the steps of:

capturing image data in the vicinity of the pull station; and

recording the captured image data.

21. The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of:

retrieving the stored image data.